

CLAYTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Monday, April 5, 2010
The Center of Clayton - Multipurpose Room C

The following members were present:

Alex Berger	Rosemary Hardy
Jessie Hoagland	Ira Berkowitz
Mimi Deem	Eric Schneider
Judy Goodman	Mark Winings

Excused/Absent

Dick Hyde
Robert Kerr

Also present:

Patty DeForrest

Approval of the Minutes – The minutes were approved as written.

Addresses from the Audience - There were no addresses from the audience at this meeting.

Director's Report – Ms. DeForrest distributed the Park and Recreation Department's 1st Annual Review to the Commission. She explained that ten staff members assisted with the input for the review. The Commission members responded by stating that they loved the timeline and thought the entire report was excellent.

Ms. DeForrest informed the Commission that there is a lot more activity in the park than normal due to weather conditions. This does affect the work the parks maintenance staff are trying to accomplish, but they are adapting. Fields #1 and #2 are scheduled to open on Thursday, April 15. We will send out an official notice about the fields opening. Staff is wrapping up the work on the garden in Oak Knoll Park. The Tennis Center is up and running. Spring Break camps were held at the Tennis Center. The Hanley House opened for the season on Saturday, April 3. It is open on weekends through October from 12:00 pm-4:00 pm and by appointment only during the week. We had a group of thirty students at the house last week and it was very successful. We are in the process of hiring part-time staff for the summer. Staff is also getting ready for the new budget year.

Ms. DeForrest stated that everything looks good with the current financial report. There were significant increases in revenue at the ice rink. Expenses at the rink were up quite a bit from last year because of repairs. The largest expense was due to the fact that a large motor had to be removed from the rink in order to be repaired. This expense is in the contractual line.

Parks staff is in the process of wrapping up projects that did not take place last season because of the weather. The road in Shaw Park will be completed by the end of May. The parking lot at Oak Knoll Park is scheduled to be completed by mid-June.

Master Plan Review: Additional Recommendations

Taylor Park

1. New Comfort Station – this may be a project that takes place sometime in the future. At the present time, it is just a plan concept.
2. Placing perimeter planting along adjacent residential property was complete in 2008.
3. Replacement of the existing chain link fence took place in 2008
4. Remove trees at main circle – this project was completed in January 2010. The trees were removed at the same time a house near that park was torn down. The parks staff does plan to replant.

Clayshire Park

- 1&2 New perimeter hedge or small decorative fence, and new shade structure and improved seating area – these projects were completed in the spring and summer of 2009.
3. Shaw Park connector improvements – some of that could connect the two parks is not Clayton property. Some work has been completed on the walkway by the municipal garage.

Whitburn Park – one of our newest parks

- 1&2 Turf rejuvenation program and new perimeter hedge or small decorative fence – The plants around the perimeter look pretty good.
3. Building surface area screening - The building surface area still needs enhancements and some repairs.

Alamo Park – (Now Henry Wright Park)

1. Addition of drinking fountain – a new drinking fountain has not been installed at the park; a drinking fountain alone would cost \$3,000.
2. Accessible parking spaces – this issue has been addressed. The parking spaces are now well marked so patrons know they are specifically for park use.
3. Terracing of hill and landscaping planting – the materials are in and the work will take place this summer.

DeMun Park

1. New comfort station – This is budgeted for FY2013.
- 2&3 Long term playground equipment upgrades and updated safety surface – The playground equipment upgrades are scheduled for FY2014.

Concordia Park

1. New drinking fountain – Installing a water fountain in Concordia Park is not in the plan at this time. It would cost \$10,000 to get water to the site.
2. Long term usage agreement – We currently have a usage agreement with a yearly renewal between the City and the Seminary. Either entity can cancel the agreement with 3 months notice. We have not experienced any issues over the last thirty years. The recommendation is to develop more of a long term agreement.
3. Investigate and address drainage issues – Some of the piping has been replaced. The site needs to be re-graded. The water is not flowing into the drains. This summer additional work will be done to address this issue.

Wydown Park – Wydown Park is one of our most update parks; therefore no recommendations were made for this park.

Hanley Park – Implement recommendations of the Hanley House Council

1. New drinking fountain – there has been some discussion of adding a comfort station at Hanley Park and that station would have a drinking fountain.
2. Additional picnic tables – Picnic tables have been installed at the park.

Wydown Boulevard

1. Synthetic path surfacing – The Public Works department has installed an interlocking subsurface system in some areas of the path. They will complete the project this year.

The Center of Clayton

1. Build a Youth Activity Center – We opened a Youth Activity Center 2 ½ years ago.
2. Adult Locker Room expansion – studies have been conducted in reference to expanding the locker rooms and adding a steam room and a sauna.

3. Reduce the impact of the mulch pile by adding screening with berms and plantings – this work has been completed.
4. Reconfiguration of Gay area - This work may or may not happen; will depend upon other improvements that would happen to the site.

System Wide Improvements:

System wide connectivity – walking maps are available.

Provide senior leisure activities in the future – the City will look into adding more leisure activities geared towards seniors.

Master plan discussion: Ms. Hardy stated that she does not think we need to have a comfort station at Taylor Park because there is not as much on-going usage there compared to the other parks. Ms. Goodman stated that years ago there were conversations about adding a comfort station at Hanley Park. The idea was put on hold because the plan was to build an ancillary building at the site. Now there is really a need for a comfort station at Hanley Park. There are many events and programs for children and seniors, so having restroom facilities is essential. We could apply for a grant that would fund comfort stations at our parks. Ms. DeForrest noted that the cost for one restroom at DeMun Park would be about \$125,000. A shelter with four restrooms and signage areas at Hanley Park would cost about \$135,000. This would make the site much more useful at least six months out of the year. One idea would be to have an architect start with a comfort station and then when funding is available connect the ancillary building to the comfort station.

Ms. DeForrest informed the Commission that she is recommending to the BOA on Tuesday, April 13 that \$25,000 be allocated from the \$60,000 designated for signage at Clayton Parks for additional studies of Shaw Park and Hanley Park. A consultant would be hired to conduct studies for both Shaw Park and Hanley Park. The studies would help us determine what to do next based on the Master Plan. The consultants would focus on big picture items and concepts only, such as the recreational trail, Ice Rink, Amphitheater, and the development of an ancillary building at Hanley Park. The plan would also include public engagements. Mr. Berger responded to the proposed recommendation by stating that the Master Plan is only three years old and it would not be wise to spend money to have someone re-do it. The Parks and Recreation Commission has put in a great deal of time prioritizing the Master Plan projects and re-doing things would make it seem like the viewpoints and input from the Commission are not valid or important. Mr. Berkowitz agreed with Mr. Berger because he does not feel as if we need to hire consultants to look at few projects. We should be able to make the decisions as a group and move forward with project implementation. Mr. Berger also presented the fact that the Sasaki Consultants were hired to look at the CBD and then they tied parks into their report. Ms. Goodman stated that she sees hiring a consultant to look at specific projects as an opportunity to take things to the next level and take them to the community. It will give us a grand plan and a road map. We have been struggling to determine what to do next and this would tie it all together in 2010. Ms. Goodman said the key component is public engagement. Mr. Schneider suggested that we hire consultants to do a rendering and then move forward.

After some discussion Ms. DeForrest stated that her staff could give recommendations and then move forward, but then the community would say they did not get the opportunity to provide their input. Also, if she made all of the decisions then it would be her plan and not the communities plan. As the discussion continued, everyone found it to be very beneficial because the Commission discovered that there was some misinterpretation about Ms. DeForrest's recommendation. The consultants would not be hired to look at any other parts of the Master plan, just the projects listed above. It would be very specific and would not mean that they would be re-doing any part of the Master Plan at all. The consultants would meet with the Commission, BOA and Park and Recreation staff before any public meetings. We would be telling them what we want them to do so the focus is extremely specific. This would also mean that the consultants would be acting like mediators at public engagements and members of the community would not be able to ask questions about everything in the Master Plan. They would be answering more multiple choice type questions and

giving their input on the recreational trail, Ice Rink, amphitheater and ancillary building at Hanley Park. Furthermore, the consultants would not come up with anything new and would follow specific documents. Mr. Berger stated that he believed the Sasaki Plan is the number one plan at this time and it must be finalized before moving forward with any new projects.

When Ms. DeForrest was asked why the amphitheater is one of the main projects in the Master Plan to focus on, she explained it is because the amphitheater has shown up in Master Plans for many years. In addition, possible locations would be eliminated as other projects are developed, so a determination of whether an amphitheater is desired and if so, where it should be located would need to be determined. She believes it is essential to get information to the public about upcoming projects because they really want to be informed. At the end of the discussion, the Commission members agreed that it would be acceptable for Ms. DeForrest to still move forward with her request to the BOA.

Policy and Procedure Manual – Smoking Ban Policy: The Commission is supportive of developing a recommendation on a non-smoking policy in the park and then recommend it to the BOA. The policy will be very specific because the Commission is wants to eliminate smoking form playground areas and ball fields. This policy could be turned into an ordinance later on by being added to the existing non-smoking ordnance that the City of Clayton will implement in July 2010. More discussion will follow on this.

Old Business / New Business

No new or old business to report.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Denise Ucinski